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PLS • NEWSLETTE

Volume II, Issue III

University of Northern Iowa

November 1991

PRICE LABORATORY SCHOOL'S MISSION

Price Laboratory School is the only laboratory school in Iowa. It was established as a Model School in 1883 and has evolved along with the University of Northern Iowa to meet the changing needs of Iowa since that time. Historically, at the present time, and in the future, our stated purpose is an accurate reflection of what we believe and what we do each day.

The legislature of the State of Iowa authorized the Board of Regents "to establish and operate elementary and secondary laboratory schools at the institutions of higher education under its control." (Iowa Code s.265.1) Further, the Code also defines the purposes of Laboratory schools:

...laboratory school shall mean a school operated by an education institution for the purpose of instructing students, training teachers, and advancing teaching methods.

Thus, the purposes of Price Laboratory School are established by law. The mission of the school, as articulated by the PLS faculty, is in accordance with these three purposes.

-To provide an excellent education for the N/K-12 students PLS serves.

-To enhance and complement the teacher preparation program at the University of Northern Iowa.

-To assist practicing teachers in improving their teaching methods. Through research, curriculum development, demonstration, consultation, conferencing, and promoting the exchange of ideas, PLS faculty contribute to the professional growth of educators, particularly those in the schools of Iowa.

The faculty and staff of PLS thus have served and continue to serve many constituencies. We have our Nursery-Kindergarten through twelfth grade students, parents and the PLS neighborhood; the University of

Northern Iowa teacher education program; and the educators (and parents) of Iowa who look to PLS for innovation in curriculum, instruction and materials, and for research and technical assistance. With the addition of the Regents' Center for Early Childhood Education in 1988, we are, in a sense, involved in the study and/or provision of educational support from ages ranging from birth to retirement.

It is readily apparent to any visitor that the first priority of each of our faculty is teaching our PLS students. The excitement in every class, on the part of students and teachers, clearly exemplifies the value of teaching and learning as an integral partnership. Our teachers were master teachers of young people before they came to PLS to expand their educational responsibilities and roles. As PLS teachers, they continue to be master teachers with the added flexibility and challenge of the laboratory school setting.

Many teachers in many schools across Iowa feel the same excitement in teaching and learning, but our teachers have been selected as master teachers who facilitate student learning to such a degree that they are also masters in teacher education. PLS Nursery-Kindergarten children through high school seniors are learning right along with teacher education students. Our provision of excellent educational programs for our PLS students simply strengthens our ability to provide excellent teacher education and technical assistance and development to the teachers of Iowa.

In a recent discussion with some PLS veteran teachers about the challenge of balancing our N/K-12 instructional program, teacher education responsibilities and development and outreach activities it was asserted very emphatically that all three of our purposes are mutually supportive and are by no means mutually exclusive. Improvement in one area drives improvement in the other two. In practice, not just in theory, when we are better teacher educators, our PLS students receive expanded educational opportunities. Our discussion ended with agreement that, if Price Laboratory School were to be summarized in a motto, that motto could very appropriately be: Learning Together.

TARDY POLICY PREPARES STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

When a group of businesses in the Mid-West were asked if tardies were important they all said, "yes." They were also asked, "How many times they would allow an employee to be late and unexcused from work in a 60-day period before the employee would be dismissed." The average number of times reported was 2.9.

One of the main goals of high school is to prepare students for life after high school. Now is the time to teach proper attendance habits. Good attendance habits should be formed and enforced during a student's school years, good habits prepare students to meet the challenges faced in life -- such as getting to work on time.

At Price Laboratory School one goal is to create a positive learning experience for all students -- especially those who make the effort to attend classes on a regular basis and on time. Tardies are taken seriously, and the students are held responsible for their actions.

At Price Laboratory School, a policy was developed and approved by the faculty to deal with unexcused tardies, using after-school detention and the revocation of open lunch and open lounge privileges. As stated in the 1991-92 Student Handbook,

"A student is allowed three unexcused tardies to school and/or class each semester without penalty. After four unexcused tardies are attained, the student will make up 25 minutes of time for that tardy and any subsequent tardy up to five. After the student has the sixth tardy, open lunch and/or open lounge privileges will be revoked. Continued excessive tardies will be dealt with as necessary."

All students start each semester with a clean slate. Students are notified when they reach the fourth unexcused tardy and they have the option of appealing whether they will serve their detention that evening, or the next, with the Principal.

The school hopes that community members, parents, and students will understand the decision to enforce a strict policy concerning student tardies. The effort made by parents, students, teachers, and administrators can result in a positive educational experience during the crucial high school years that carries on into the world of work, military, or postgraduate education.



By Diane McCarty
Fourth Grade Instructor

Who would spend a month in Washington, DC, during the most humid time of the summer? Teachers from Alaska to Georgia and IOWA arrived in the capital city for a four-week program sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The annual Summer Geography Institute was conducted during the month of July for 65 teachers throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. This is a nationwide campaign by the National Geographic Society to improve geography instruction in the classroom.

The institute comprises a one-of-a-kind program designed to build a network of teachers trained in the latest methods of teaching geography and skilled in advocating the inclusion of geography in the curriculum. These teachers attended lectures on geographic themes and concepts, and then they translated these fundamentals into lesson plans to use in their classrooms.

Iowa is also one of forty-two State Alliances for Geographic Education. A Geographic Alliance is a grass-roots organization that brings together the content expertise of academic geographers and the classroom experience of teachers. Its purpose is to improve the quality of geography education through local and state-wide efforts. Among other activities, Alliances develop classroom materials keyed to the local curriculum, coordinate geography awareness activities, and provide a focus for individuals and institutions interested in restoring geography to the curriculum.

The Geography Alliance of Iowa sponsored 10 candidates' names for the 1991 summer institute, any of which could have been chosen to attend. The National Geographic Society then chose the final four who actually represented our state in Washington, D.C. I was

fortunate enough to be chosen with three other teachers from Marshalltown, Elkader, and New Hartford for this experience. Five more Iowa teachers are expected to be sent to D.C. for a similar month-long summer training in 1992.

As part of my participation in the summer program, I am required to conduct at least three workshops for colleagues during the 1991-92 school year, sharing what I learned. The 65 graduates from the summer session are expected to reach more than 6,000 teachers, who in turn may affect the education of nearly 360,000 students.

President Bush recently brought the curriculum of geography national attention in his American 2000 edict by proclaiming geography as one of the five main disciplines that students are to demonstrate competency in today's educational systems. Locally, we will be focusing attention on geography in a variety of ways in the upcoming months. Geography Awareness Week is December 1-7. The theme is "Geography: New Worlds to Explore." For the fourth year PLS will also be sponsoring a geography bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades.

The experience of attending the Summer Geography Institute was one-in-a-lifetime? Not only was the curriculum taught outstanding and the instructors exceptional, but the friendships developed with other geography teachers around the United States was the best. My air conditioner did malfunction for over ten days but it was a mere muggy inconvenience compared to this great experience.

Seventh Graders Remember Scott Westin

"He had a twinkle in his eyes, a sparkle in his smile, and love in his voice."

"Every night I talk to Scott in my prayers. He's pretty happy up there. He has no pain, and he plays baseball as much as he wants."

"Even though Scott has left us, his memory is still alive and kicking. All we have to do is remember him."

In language arts, seventh graders have been sharing memories and stories of Scott Paul Westin, who died of

aplastic anemia six weeks before school started. Scott's friends have so much to say, in fact, that they plan to share their writing in an evening program just before Thanksgiving for parents and special guests, the Westin family.

The stories are ones that evoke not only tears but also smiles and laughter. Six girls remember being together at UNI Sports Camp when they learned that Scott was dying. They met each night in someone's dorm room to sit in a circle and join hands. "Someone would start the prayers, and then we'd all take turns saying what was in our hearts about Scott." Three boys recall how he "played tackle football when he had aplastic anemia, even though his mom didn't want him to. He didn't get tackled though because he was always QB or on defense."

His friends remember him as someone who hated carrots (He would chew out the middle of them and say they were screwdrivers!) and loved peanut M & M's and the Boston Red Sox. He "was famous for his jokes" and "never changed or felt sorry for himself." He was generous, funny, and stubborn. He "liked lots of things, but he loved girls."

Some of the remembering took Scott's friends back to early school days. "Scott and Mike loved the wood-working table in kindergarten. When they had free time, they would run to it and stay there the whole time until the teacher would come and tell them to move. So they went to the loft, and Scott one day had a great idea and started throwing pans at the girls. He did and went to the principal's office."

Through expressing and sharing feelings, seventh graders have reminded each other just how much Scott affected lives. "I learned what aplastic anemia does and how it affects a normal person's life. But towards the end I really felt what Scott would mean by the pain and sleepy days. I knew he would die and I would have to face losing one of my friends for the very first time. But I didn't think this first for Scott would come so soon, even though he lived longer than a typical patient."

"Life goes on, but I will always love Scott."

"We miss you, Scott."

Contributors: Fateem Al-Mabuk, Sara Bailey, Allen Bickley-Green, Lynsey Bolin, Minday Carbiener, Mikki Carmichael, Jake Flanscha, Kelli Frye, Alicia Janssen, Leah Kamienski, Kim Knutson, Nick Lyons, Stephanie Potter, Shane Rundall, Sue Ellen Savereide, Janessa Uhl, Peter Vanderwall, Bryce Weber, Stacy Wertz, Mike Wilson

WHAT A BARGAIN

By Paul Waack
Athletic Director

In a day and age when we are all looking for a good bargain, perhaps we have down played one of the best - athletic participation.

The costs are time, commitment, and dedication. The benefits are pervasive: health benefits, discipline, friendships, better grade point average, lower drop out rates, self-esteem and self-confidence.

At N.U. we recognize a bargain when we see one. Because we understand the cost and benefit, the N.U. athletic department is committed to offering a comprehensive co-curricular program.

This years participation statistics show an overall rise in all sports with particularly strong increases in football and volleyball.

GRADE	TOTAL # IN CLASS	# OUT FOR SPORTS	PERCENTAGE
7TH	28 - MALE 26 - FEMALE	20 - MALE 17 - FEMALE	65 %
8TH	29 - MALE 27 - FEMALE	14 - MALE 20 - FEMALE	61 %
9TH	26 - MALE 28 - FEMALE	15 - MALE 16 - FEMALE	52 %
10TH	16 - MALE 27 - FEMALE	5 - MALE 17 - FEMALE	47 %
11TH	31 - MALE 19 - FEMALE	22 - MALE 17 - FEMALE	70 %
12TH	30 - MALE 10 - FEMALE	16 - MALE 3 - FEMALE	48 %

With the winter athletic season just around the corner, please encourage your son/daughter to take part in this "bargin."

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change of Phone Number

For many years the Elementary Office telephone number was 273-2512. With the office reorganization this number is no longer in service. To contact the Elementary and Secondary Office call 273-2138.

Speech Language Screening

Communication is a very important skill to assist your child in learning and progressing in school. Speech-language screening is conducted for all second grade students and students new to AEA 7. This year the Laboratory School is assisted with speech-language services from Dawn Kelly who is an AEA-7 staff member. The screening will occur between October

and December. You will be notified of the results following the completing of the screen. If you have questions, please contact the school.

School Picture Make-Up Day

For students who missed the previous picture days, pictures will be taken the final time on Wednesday, November 6, 1991.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences for students in grades N-12 will be held on Monday, November 11, 1991 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Elementary conferences will also be scheduled on Thursday, November 14, 1991 from 12:00 noon to 8:00pm. If you have not scheduled a conference please contact your student's teacher or advisor.

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
4:00pm September 26, 1991
PLS Library

Present: Linda Fernandez, Lynn Nielsen, Nick Teig, Sue Sawyer, Annie Jones, Harold Asmus, Linda Schacterle, Deb Schmidt, Bob Niederhauser, LuAnn McAdams, Rick McGuire, Cheryl McCullough, Janet Reimer, and Cathy McGuire.

The primary item for discussion was the budget. The operating budget for next year will be approximately \$30,000 less than this year's budget. Linda Fernandez asked the PAC for possible methods of reaching parents to solicit their input on ways to make up the \$30,000. Sue Sawyer suggested we mail a survey to parents.

It was also suggested that we draft a letter to President Curris and Vice President Nancy Marlin opposing budget cuts.

Linda Fernandez distributed copies of the mission statement of Price Laboratory School.

Increasing university and public awareness of Price Laboratory School was also discussed.

The Laboratory School has a minority enrollment of 13.5 percent. It was suggested that PLS submit cultural diversity articles for the university newsletter.

It was also suggested that we go through the Alumni Association and the Admissions Office to distribute information to increase awareness of Price Lab School.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. The next meeting will be held November 18, 1991, at 4:00pm in the library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Reimer

Parking For School Events

When stopping by the school for a short period of time please use the visitor parking spaces in the lot to the south of the building. When special events occur during the regular school day where there will be a large number of parents attending, we will contact the Public Safety Office to see that vehicles are not ticketed in the lots adjacent to the school during the time of the event.

There is no parking on Campus Street in front of the school between the hours of 7:30am and 4:00pm. If you park in this area illegally during the school day you do so at your own risk.

During conference days, please look for a parking space in the lots to the south of the building or near the field house.

Lunch Tickets:

Lunch ticket prices have increased this year. They are:

1 - day	1.25
5 - day	6.25
20-day	25.00

Milk ticket prices remain at .75 for a 5-day and 3.00 for a 20-day.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SENDING THE CORRECT AMOUNT. WE WILL NEED TO SELL THE STUDENT ONLY THE AMOUNT THE CHECK OR CASH WILL COVER AND WILL REFUND THE CHANGE.

Fees Owed:

If fees are still owed, you should have received a reminder. Please take care of this obligation no later than November 15.

Forms Needed:

You also received a reminder regarding needed forms to be on file for your son/daughter. We need you to take the time to fill out whatever forms were enclosed in your reminder and return those to the office now, please.

Attendance:

We would like to remind you again of the attendance procedure.

Elementary parents are to call the nurse at 273-2348 to report absences EACH day.

Secondary parents are to call the office at 273-2185 to report absences EACH day.

THE OFFICE IS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. DAILY - PLEASE MAKE YOUR ATTENDANCE CALLS

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 AND 9:00 A.M.

Written notes are not necessary once the call has been made. Therefore, the student goes directly to class upon their return. If a student is missing and a call has not been received from a parent, the office will attempt to reach someone either at home or work.

We need parent assistance in order to keep our attendance program on target and we appreciate the manner in which most of you continue to call us when necessary.

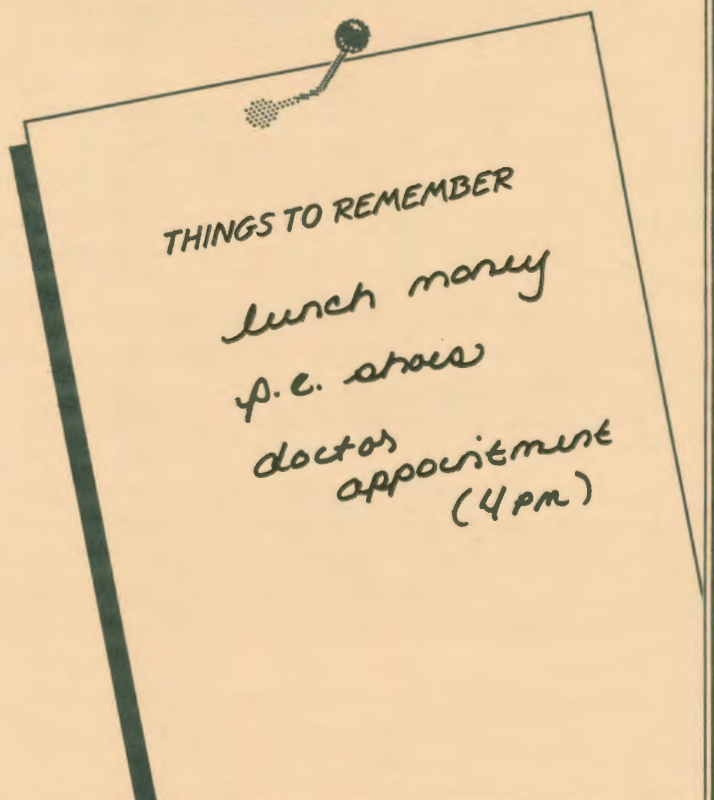
Student Messages:

We would like to strongly encourage parents to take care of business with their children before they come to school. Due to budget cuts, the office is severely under staffed and we are unable to handle all the messages that are not emergencies. The school does not have an intercom system so every message has to be delivered directly to the student.

Please make arrangements for doctor/dental appointments, lunches with relatives, babysitting jobs and where and when your child will be picked up before your child comes to school. Please make sure your child has his/her homework, shoes and lunch before they leave home in the morning.

If there is a family emergency we will do our best to find the student and deal with the matter as quickly as possible.

We in the office sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.



NOVEMBER 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fall Play-8:00 p.m.	2 CC-State GSW-Districts Fall Play-8:00 p.m.
3	4 FB Quarter-finals VB Regionals-----	5 Psychology Field Trip- All Day	6 Elementary Picture Make-up BB Rules Mtg.-AUD-6:30pm	7	8 GSW State----- Gr. 8 Interstate Exchange St. Paul Academy-----	9 FB-Semi-finals
10	11 Parent/Teacher Conferences (N/K-12)-8:00-5:00 NO SCHOOL BB-Practice Begins BSW-Practice Begins	12	13	14 Parent/Teacher Conferences (N/K-6)-12:00-8:00 No Elementary School H.S. Concert-8:00 p.m. Band, Orch., Chorus Winter Coaches Mtg-Field House-7:30 p.m.	15 FB State----- VB State-----	16
17	18 NICL Instrumental-N. Tama	19 Cap/Gown Measurements 8:50 a.m. Law Related Ed. Field Trip- Anamosa-6:30-8:00 p.m. AAC Mtg.-3:15-4:30	20	21 All State Musical Festival-----	22	23
24	25	26 GBB-Janesville-T-6:30 (Var & JV)	27	28 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL BBB Tournament at S.Tama Hudson vs. Vinton-6:30 NU vs. S. Tama-8:00	30

* Indicates a change

PLS School Lunch Menus

NOVEMBER 1991

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				Nov. 1 Fish Sandwich Potato Chips Vegetable Sticks Peach Crisp
Nov. 4 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Peaches Bread	Nov. 5 Pizza Burgers Vegetable Sticks Fresh Fruit Chocolate Cheese Cake	Nov. 6 Chili Dinner Rolls Applesauce	Nov. 7 BBQ'd Pork Sandwich Tater Tots Pineapple Chunks	Nov. 8 Turkey Club Sandwich Mixed Vegetables Apple Crisp
Nov. 11 No School	Nov. 12 Taco Salad Vegetable Sticks Bran Muffin Diced Pears	Nov. 13 Chicken Sandwich Corn 1/2 Orange Applesauce Cake	Nov. 14 Lasagna Buttered Bread Lettuce Salad Peaches	Nov. 15 Hot Dog French Fries Apple
Nov. 18 Hamburger Potato Salad Baked Beans Fresh Fruit	Nov. 19 Spaghetti Cole Slaw Garlic Toast Fruit Cocktail	Nov. 20 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Fresh Fruit Pumpkin Bar	Nov. 21 Baked Potato/ Topping Choices Peanut Butter Sandwich Applesauce	Nov. 22 Pork Tenderloin Sandwich Green Beans Diced Pears Chocolate Chip Bar
Nov. 25 Hot Ham 'n Cheese Sandwich Carrot Sticks Peaches Cherry Chip Bar	Nov. 26 Beef 'n Bean Burrito Vegetable Sticks Orange Cookie	Nov. 27 Fish Sandwich Broccoli w/Cheese Pears Cookies 'n Cream Pudding	Nov. 28 No School <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	Nov. 29 No School

TAG 7 MEETINGS SCHEDULED

TAG 7 (Talented and Gifted 7) is sponsoring a series of meetings for students and parents about various topics this year. The meetings are all held on Saturdays and are open to all students; they do not have to be participating in a TAG program.

The topics and dates for the meetings this year are as follows:

October 19	Wildlife Rehabilitation;
November 16	UNI Theatre Tour
January 25	Noise and Vibration
February 22	Pop-Up Books and Creative Drama
March 28	Spinners and Weavers
April 25	Electronic and Computer Music Composition

For more information contact Judy Davidson at 266-3827 or Eleanor Wilson at 266-3391.

Possible Programs Before and/or After School

We are investigating the possibility of providing student activities before and/or after regular school hours. Community agencies who are specialists in activity programs are being contacted about programs they could provide that would be interesting and fun for our students. In order to decide whether we should continue to try to make arrangements for activity programs, we would like to know if parents and students have an interest in participating. If you are interested in your student's involvement, please call us or send a note. We would like to know what types of activities students would enjoy, the ages of students who would participate, if before or after school would be better, what hours would work best with family schedules, and any other information that you believe would be helpful to us in determining whether we want to pursue this idea. Please send a note or call us at 273-6136

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